



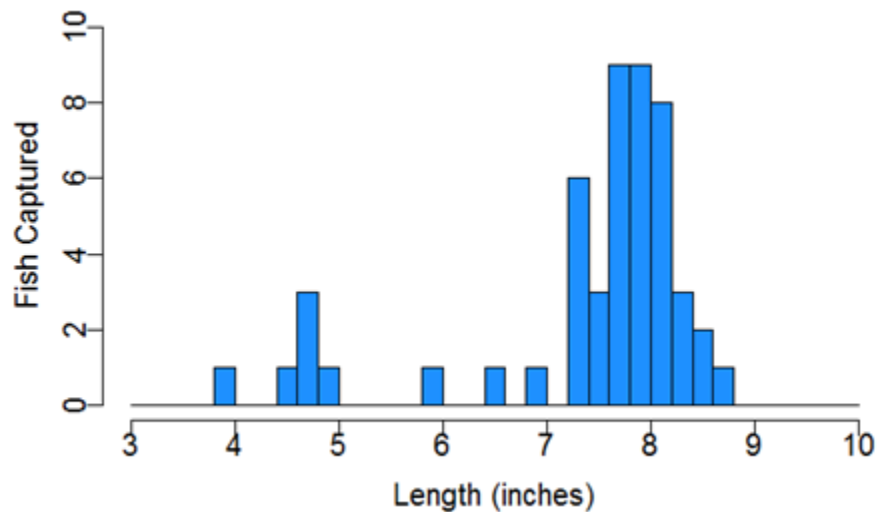
Spring Fisheries Survey Summary Fishtrap Lake, Sawyer County, 2017

The Hayward DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted an electrofishing survey on Fishtrap Lake on May 24, 2017 to document the status of bluegill, largemouth and non-game species but data was also collected on juvenile walleye. The entire shoreline of the lake (2.85 miles, excluding the channel to the boat ramp) was shocked. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society.

Bluegill



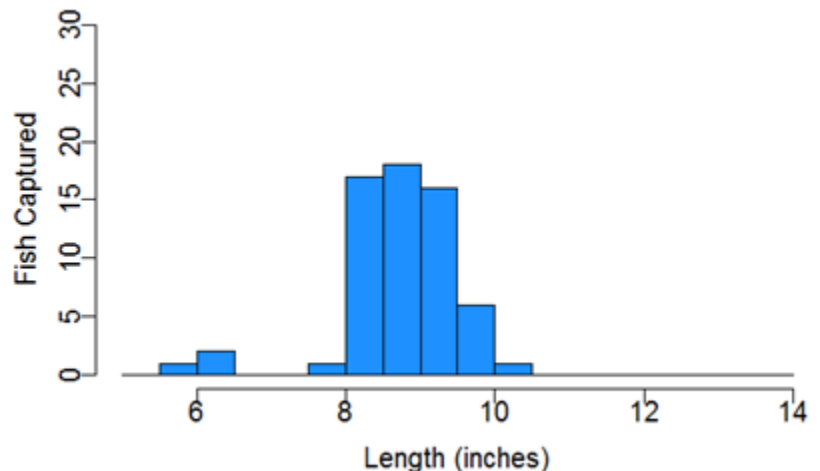
Captured 50 per mile ≥ 3 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 6"$	86%
Preferred Size $\geq 8"$	28%

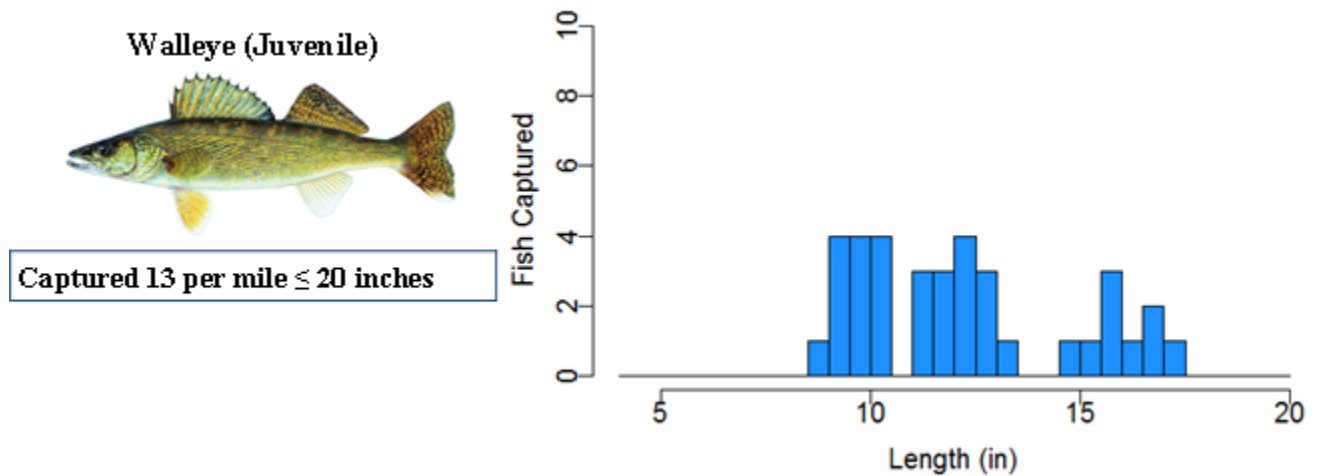


Black Crappie



Captured 9 per mile ≥ 5 inches	
Quality Size $\geq 8"$	94%
Preferred Size $\geq 10"$	2%





Summary of Results

A typical DNR spring fish survey would include both a netting and electrofishing component to capture data on the various species of fish present in the lake. However, in 2017 only the electrofishing component could be completed for Fishtrap Lake due to time constraints. This electrofishing effort was well timed for the target species and provided useful data on the fish populations in Fishtrap Lake.

Bluegill were captured at a moderate to low rate in comparison to other lakes in the area, but had excellent size. Most bluegill were between 7-9 inches in length. Bluegill populations in lakes where recruitment of new fish is limited, as appears to be the case in Fishtrap, typically have good size.

Black crappie were also captured during the electrofishing effort even though they were not a target species. Black crappie in Fishtrap Lake are mostly between 8-10 inches, a size that should be of some interest to anglers. Electrofishing is not the preferred method for surveying crappie in Wisconsin, so these results should be interpreted with some caution.

Walleye were captured during the electrofishing survey as well. Walleye recruitment is limited in Fishtrap Lake but walleye have been stocked by the Winter Lakes Alliance. Most of the walleye captured in this survey are believed to be the product of those stocking efforts since little natural reproduction has been documented in recent years. Fish representing multiple stocked year classes appear to be present.



Report by Max Wolter – Fisheries Biologist, Sawyer County
 Survey conducted by Max Wolter,
 Scott Braden, and Evan Sniadajewski
 Reviewed and Approved by Jeff Kampa – Area Fisheries Supervisor

A net full of walleye from
 the 2017 electrofishing
 effort on Fishtrap Lake.
 Photo by Max Wolter

